SANDRA R. BROWN 1 Acting United States Attorney 2 LAWRENCE S. MIDDLETON Assistant United States Attorney Chief, Criminal Division 3 CHRISTOPHER BRUNWIN (Cal. Bar No. 158939) Assistant United States Attorney Violent and Organized Crime Section 5 1300 United States Courthouse 312 North Spring Street 6 Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 894-4242 7 Facsimile: (213) 894-3713 E-mail: Christopher.Brunwin@usdoj.gov 8 Attorneys for Plaintiff UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 9 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 12 No. CR 15-688(A)-DSF-5 13 Plaintiff. PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT DESIREE HERNANDEZ 14 v. 15 DESIREE HERNANDEZ, et al., Defendants. 16 17 18 This constitutes the plea agreement between defendant 1. 19 Desiree Hernandez ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's 20 Office for the Central District of California ("the USAO") in the 21 above-captioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, 22 enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities. 23 24 DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS 25 2. Defendant agrees to: 26 At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and 27 provided by the Court, appear and plead quilty to counts one, two, and five of the First Superseding Indictment in United States v. 28

- Kelly, et al., CR No. 15-688(A)-DSF, which charge defendant with
 conspiracy to commit racketeering, in violation of 18 U.S.C.
 § 1962(d); racketeering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c); and
 conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C.
 §§ 846, 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(B).
 - b. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
 - c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
 - d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
 - e. Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
 - f. Be truthful at all times with Pretrial Services, the United States Probation Office, and the Court.
 - g. Pay the applicable special assessments at or before the time of sentencing unless defendant lacks the ability to pay and prior to sentencing submits a completed financial statement on a form to be provided by the USAO.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

3. The USAO agrees to:

- a. Not contest facts agreed to in this agreement.
- b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement.
- c. At the time of sentencing, move to dismiss any remaining counts of the First Superseding Indictment as against

- defendant. Defendant agrees, however, that at the time of sentencing the Court may consider any dismissed charges in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed.
- d. At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offenses up to and including the time of sentencing, recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.
- e. Forego any enhancements to the otherwise applicable statutory mandatory minimum sentence pursuant to Title 21 of the United States Code, Section 851, or to dismiss charges filed pursuant to that provision, if filed prior to the entry of defendant's guilty pleas.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSES

- 4. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in count one, that is, Racketeering Conspiracy, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d), the following must be true:
- a. The enterprise alleged in count one of the First Superseding Indictment existed;
- b. The enterprise engaged in activities that affected or would affect interstate or foreign commerce; and
- c. Defendant knowingly and intentionally agreed that a co-conspirator (which may include the defendant) would violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(c), through a pattern of racketeering activity.

An "enterprise" includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, and any union or group of individuals associated in fact, although not a legal entity. "Racketeering activity" includes any act or threat involving murder, kidnaping, robbery, extortion, or dealing in a controlled substance, which is chargeable under state law and punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

A "pattern of racketeering activity" is at least two racketeering acts within ten years of each other that have a relationship to each other and a threat of continuity. Conduct forms a pattern if it consists of criminal acts that have the same or similar purposes, results, participants, victims, or methods of commission, or otherwise are interrelated by distinguishing characteristics and are not isolated.

- 5. Defendant understands that, for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in count two, that is, racketeering, in violation of Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1962(c), the following must be true:
- a. There was an on-going enterprise consisting of a group of persons associated together for a common purpose;
- b. Defendant was employed by or associated with the enterprise;
- c. Defendant conducted or participated, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of the affairs of the enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity or collection of unlawful debt; and
- d. The enterprise engaged in or its activities in some way affected interstate commerce.

6. Defendant understands that, for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in count five, that is, the conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1), the following must be true:

- a. Defendant entered an agreement with at least one other person to commit the crime of distribution of a controlled substance; and
- b. Defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of at least one of its objects and intending to help accomplish it.

In order for defendant to be subject to the statutory maximum and mandatory minimum sentences set forth herein for the violation charged in count five, the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that it was foreseeable to the defendant that the conspiracy of which she was a part involved the distribution of at least 5 grams of actual methamphetamine or at least 50 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

7. Defendant admits that she is, in fact, guilty of the offenses charged and described in counts one, two, and five of the First Superseding Indictment and that the offense described in count five involved the distribution of more than 5 grams of actual methamphetamine or more than 50 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

PENALTIES

8. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for each of the violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1962(c) and 1962(d), is: 20 years' imprisonment; a 3-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the

offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

- 9. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for this violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1), and (b)(1)(B), is: 40 years' imprisonment; a lifetime period of supervised release; a fine of \$5,000,000, or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 10. Defendant understands, therefore, that the total maximum sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is: imprisonment for 80 years; a lifetime period of supervised release; a fine of \$5,500,000, or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offenses, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$300.
- 11. The statutory mandatory minimum sentence that the court must impose for this violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846, 841(a)(1), and (b)(1)(B) is 5 years' imprisonment, a 4-year term of supervised release, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 12. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the term of supervised releases.

2.

- Defendant understands that, by pleading quilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury. Defendant understands that, once the Court accepts defendant's guilty pleas, it will be a federal felony for defendant to possess a firearm or ammunition. Defendant understands that the convictions in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's quilty pleas. 14. Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United
 - 14. Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United States citizen, the felony convictions in this case may subject defendant to: removal, also known as deportation, which may, under some circumstances, be mandatory; denial of citizenship; and denial of admission to the United States in the future. The Court cannot, and defendant's attorney also may not be able to, advise defendant fully regarding the immigration consequences of the felony conviction in this case. Defendant understands that unexpected immigration consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.
 - 15. Defendant understands that under 21 U.S.C. § 862a, defendant will not be eligible for assistance under state programs funded under the Social Security Act or Federal Food Stamp Act or for federal food stamp program benefits, and that any such benefits or

assistance received by defendant's family members will be reduced to reflect defendant's ineligibility.

FACTUAL BASIS

16. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offenses to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support the pleas of guilty to the charges described in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 18 below but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.

Defendant is a member of the Wilmas street gang. The Wilmas gang is an enterprise whose members engage in violent crimes and narcotics distribution in Southeast Los Angeles and the community of Wilmington, within the Central District of California. As part of her role and membership in the Wilmas gang, defendant agreed with others to conduct and participate in the offenses of the gang, including narcotics-trafficking, as part of a pattern of racketeering activity.

Specifically, on September 13, 2013, defendant and co-defendant Armando Soriano spoke on the telephone with another person to negotiate the purchase of methamphetamine from a source in Mexico, and defendant described the methamphetamine as better than that which they had obtained from co-defendant Lawrence Kelly and had no "cut" in it. Defendant also spoke with co-defendant Soriano about introducing the methamphetamine source of supply to Frank Munoz and discussing the arrangement with Kelly. On September 14, 2013,

defendant agreed to deliver methamphetamine to Soriano, and on September 18, 2013, defendant arranged for Soriano to deliver methamphetamine to another person.

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On September 19, 2013, defendant and co-defendant Armando Soriano were apprehended with 32.4 grams of methamphetamine, and defendant then told co-defendant Paul Soriano that she and Armando Soriano had been caught by law enforcement and that officers knew all about them and other Wilmas gang members. On September 19, 2013, after being released from jail, defendant told another Wilmas gang member that defendant was responsible for collecting guns for Kelly and that she would be collecting Armando Soriano's guns for Kelly. Defendant also identified herself as a "Westside" Wilmas gang member in the conversation. On September 20, 2013, defendant told codefendant Paul Soriano that defendant needed to deliver money to Lawrence Kelly for methamphetamine. Also on September 20, 2013, Paul Soriano directed defendant to retrieve a .380 caliber handgun for Lawrence Kelly, and defendant told Soriano that she had spoken to Kelly and knew "all the business." On the same day, another Wilmas gang member told defendant that the gang members were searching for guns, and defendant told Paul Soriano that Kelly charged her too much for methamphetamine and that she needed a scale so that she could deliver narcotics.

On September 24, 2013, defendant told Frank Munoz that defendant was attempting to provide Munoz' telephone number to Armando Soriano while Armando Soriano was incarcerated. Defendant also spoke on the telephone to Armando Soriano and thanked Soriano for falsely claiming to officers that all of the methamphetamine seized on September 19, 2013 belonged to him, while acknowledging that some belonged to

defendant. Defendant also told Armando Soriano that she was selling methamphetamine and that Lawrence Kelly had provided her with a half-ounce of methamphetamine. Armando Soriano then directed defendant to tell his customers that defendant would be distributing narcotics while Armando Soriano was incarcerated and encouraged defendant to expand their distribution. Defendant responded by telling Armando Soriano that she knew what she was doing.

On September 25, 2013, defendant told another person that Armando Soriano wanted everyone to know that they could contact defendant in order to purchase narcotics. Armando Soriano also directed defendant to obtain a gun from Lawrence Kelly and provide it to another Wilmas gang member while defendant sold narcotics. On September 26, 2013, defendant advised Armando Soriano that she had obtained a new source of supply for methamphetamine that customers preferred over Kelly and that the customers were willing to pay more for the methamphetamine.

Defendant agrees that her actions were committed as part of her membership in the Wilmas gang, and in furtherance of the narcotics-trafficking and other crimes of the organization, knowing that its members and associates had committed and would commit multiple offenses constituting a pattern of racketeering activity, including narcotics-distribution and other racketeering offenses. Defendant knew that the offenses of the Wilmas gang and the conspiracy of which she was a part involved the distribution of more than 5 grams of actual methamphetamine and more than 50 grams of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine. Defendant also admits that the crimes of the organization, including narcotics trafficking, have an effect on interstate and foreign commerce.

SENTENCING FACTORS

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17. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence, the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, that defendant cannot have any expectation of receiving a sentence within the calculated Sentencing Guidelines range, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines and the other § 3553(a) factors, the Court will be free to exercise its discretion to impose any sentence it finds appropriate between the mandatory minimum and up to the maximum set by statute for the crimes of conviction.

18. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable Sentencing Guidelines factors:

Base Offense Level: 26 U.S.S.G. §§ 2E1.1(a)(2), 2D1.1(c)(7)

Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that additional specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and departures under the Sentencing Guidelines are appropriate.

Defendant understands that defendant's offense level could be increased if defendant is a career offender under U.S.S.G. §§ 4B1.1 and 4B1.2. If defendant's offense level is so altered, defendant and the USAO will not be bound by the agreement to Sentencing Guideline factors set forth above.

19. Defendant understands that there is no agreement as to defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.

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Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue for a sentence outside the sentencing range established by the Sentencing Guidelines based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(6), and (a)(7).

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 21. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:
 - The right to persist in a plea of not guilty. a.
 - The right to a speedy and public trial by jury. b.
- The right to be represented by counsel and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel - at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel - and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel - at every other stage of the proceeding.
- The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
- The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant.
- The right to testify and to present evidence in f. opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify.
- The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.
- Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

22. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty pleas were involuntary, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's convictions on the offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE

- 23. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a total term of imprisonment on all counts of conviction that is not greater than the guidelines range corresponding to an overall offense level of 23, defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following:

 (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the Court; (c) the fine imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) the term of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (f) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in General Orders 318, 01-05, and/or 05-02 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).
- 24. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the sentence are at or above the statutory minimum and at or below the statutory maximum specified above and (b) the Court imposes a term of imprisonment of not less than the applicable Guidelines range corresponding to an overall offense level of 23, the USAO will give up its right to appeal any portion of the sentence.

RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

25. Defendant agrees that if, after entering guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty pleas on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement; (b) in any investigation, criminal prosecution, or civil, administrative, or regulatory action, defendant agrees that any information or statements related to her plea and any evidence derived from any such information shall be admissible against defendant, and defendant will not assert, and hereby waives and gives up, any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, or any federal rule, that any Plea Information or any evidence derived from any Plea Information should be suppressed or is inadmissible.

RESULT OF VACATUR, REVERSAL OR SET-ASIDE

26. Defendant agrees that if any count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside, the USAO may: (a) ask the Court to resentence defendant on any remaining count of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from any stipulations regarding sentencing contained in this agreement, (b) ask the Court to void the entire plea agreement and vacate defendant's guilty pleas on any remaining counts of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from all their obligations under this agreement, or (c) leave defendant's remaining convictions, sentence, and plea agreement intact. Defendant agrees that the choice among these three options rests in the exclusive discretion of the USAO.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

27. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

- 28. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then:
- a. If defendant has previously entered guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty pleas.
- b. The USAO will be free to criminally prosecute defendant for false statement, obstruction of justice, and perjury based on any knowingly false or misleading statement by defendant.
- c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed to factual basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under

the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

COURT AND PROBATION OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- 29. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States Probation Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.
- 30. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 18 are consistent with the facts of this case. While this paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the United States Probation Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the facts agreed to in this agreement, this paragraph does not affect defendant's and the USAO's obligations not to contest the facts agreed to in this agreement.
- 31. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the

maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's quilty pleas, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

The parties agree that this agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's quilty plea hearing as if the entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SANDRA R. BROWN

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Acting United States Attorney

CHRISTOPHER BRUNWIN Assistant United States Attorney

DESIREE HERNANDEZ

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant DESIREE

ALEX R. KESSEL

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HERNANDEZ

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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading guilty because I am guilty of the charges and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other reason.

Defendant

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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

I am DESIREE HERNANDEZ' attorney. I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of her rights, of possible

pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the factual basis set forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of guilty pleas pursuant to this agreement.

/2-7-17 Date

ALEX R. KESSEL
Attorney for Defendant DESIREE

HERNANDEZ